

REMARKS

The claim amendments above are those presented in the Applicant's Amendment dated August 22, 2005 filed in response to the Final Office Action dated June 22, 2005, with the exception of claims 1, 45 and 63, as addressed below.

Claims 1-63 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein, with claims 5, 14-16, 18, 19, 21-23, 25, 26, 29-44, 50, 54 and 58-62 having been previously withdrawn.

Applicant herein reinstates the comments and arguments presented in the Remarks section of the August 22, 2005 Amendment. Further, Applicant herein addresses the Examiner's comment in the Advisory Action that the phrase "extending inwardly of the ring", as used in claims 1, 45 and 63, is grammatically awkward and not understood.

Applicant believes that in the context of the specification and drawings of the application, it is quite clear what is meant by "extending inwardly of the ring". In the spirit of advancing the application, however, Applicant has replaced this phrase in claims 1, 45 and 63 with "extending inward thereof", which is believed to be fully supported by the application. If this language is still not acceptable to the Examiner, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to suggest appropriate language.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number FLEX-001.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

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By: 
Carol M. LaSalle
Registration No. 39,740

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
1900 University Avenue, Suite 200
East Palo Alto, California 94303
Telephone: (650) 327-3400
Facsimile: (650) 327-3231